

## How do fields develop?

How do ideas develop in academic/intellectual fields?

**The case of film studies** lets us see in a relatively concise way, how an emerging field of study comes into being and sustains itself, generates new knowledge and new methods, new ways of thinking about its object of study, and expands on the definition of an object or area of study.

Key components:

1. a generation heavily influenced by film as an art form
2. a. foreign and serious US
3. an interest in popular forms, including commercial ones
4. combination of both academics and intellectuals, journalists, etc.
  - a. academics—
    - i. room for new developments in the arts and humanities
    - ii. narrowing down of opportunities in the basic literature disciplines, encourages and allows spreading out, esp. in high enrollment areas
    - iii. paradigm shifts
    - iv. enrollment shifts
    - v. work in adjoining areas (communication, professional fields)

schools and film screenings

- b. journalists and free lance intellectuals
  - i. very intelligent reviewers
  - ii. an acceptable topic of intellectual discussion (Kael, etc.)
  - iii. diversity of publication opportunities

Factors

Institutions

That there are formal and informal organizations in existence or in the process of coming into being that allow for the work of individuals to exist, be communicated with others, for a social network that recognizes itself. These can be

- a. previously existing institutions which harbor the new development, nourish it and let it grow
- b. newly generated institutions which reflect the interests and enthusiasms of a specific group of people
  - i. generation (a gathering together of people who have had more or less similar experiences in a similar temporal frame who can recognize each other and lend support to a group endeavor (even if, on some level, being rivals for attention and resources and recognition
  - ii. a group formed in reaction to something else, something external (unemployment, underemployment, discrimination which excludes them from established institutions, etc.
  - iii. a group formed because an opportunity arises (eg internet, new technologies, etc., outside resources --\$;

iv.

v.

Economics something becomes possible because a new source of revenue to support something comes into existence, or older forms begin to break up or break down and another path is found.

New problems or questions come up, new experiences are had, which cannot be accounted for by the old paradigm. A new one is called for. (Kuhn, the structure of scientific revolutions)

Marxism in film studies

Psychoanalysis, semiotics,  
Ideological analysis